

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 701.206	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/10753	International filing date (day/month/year) 26.09.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.10.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B01D53/00		
Applicant TOGNAZZO, Valerio		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).  
 These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  28.04.2004	Date of completion of this report  27.12.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office - Glitschiner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840	Authorized Officer  Cubas Alcaraz, J  Telephone No. +49 30 25901-324  

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/10753

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

### Description, Pages

1-10 as originally filed

### Claims, Numbers

1-57 as originally filed

### Drawings, Sheets

1, 2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/10753**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).
- (Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-57
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-57
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-57
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: DE-A-4022087

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art. In D1 a solution different of water is used for generating bubbles enclosing the pollutants, the bubbles being frozen in second step. The subject-matter of claim 1 discloses a process wherein pure water is used for generating snow and the pollutants are adsorbed on the snow. The subject-matter of claim 1 is thus new (Article 33(1)(2) PCT).

The process of the invention does not have the problems derived from the use of compounds different to water and is based in the adsorption properties of the snow even for very small pollutants. Such an effect was not described or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the subject-matter of claim 1 involves an inventive step (Article 33(1)(3) PCT).

Similar reasoning applies, mutatis mutandi, to the independent claim 32, directed to an installation for implementing the process of claim 1.

Claims 2-31 and 33-57 are dependent on claims 1 and 32 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.